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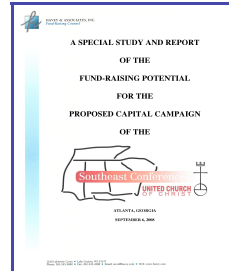
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Conference News and Announcements

The **Southeast Conference** continues its exploration of the **feasibility of a capital campaign**, and has taken the next step of engaging in an Awareness/Education phase. This will involve five meetings across the conference at which a presentation will be made, and response sought from the ministers and leaders of the churches of the Conference. Those meetings have been scheduled on Saturdays at beginning at 11:00A as follows:

- January 31, 2009 First Congregational UCC, Birmingham
- February 28, 2009 Holy Trinity Community UCC, Nashville
- March 14, 2009 Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta
- March 28, 2009 Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Chattanooga
- April 18, 2009 Midway Congregational UCC, Midway, GA



Following a presentation and discussion, there will be a lunch served. All ministers and leaders of the Conference as encouraged coming. There will be no solicitation!

The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference UCC will be held in the Atlanta area June 12-13, in a location to be confirmed, and hosted by the UCC congregations of Atlanta. Please circle the dates in your calendar, and look for details as the plans develop. At this time we know that we will be welcoming Steve Sterner, the Acting Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries of the UCC, and a member of Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta. Other keynoters will be announced once confirmed.

Gary Spencer, member of **First Congregational UCC, Atlanta**, and of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Conference was recently elected to represent the SE Conference on the **Board of Trustees of Talladega College**.

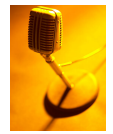
Michael Stroud, member of **United Church UCC, Huntsville**, has been working on a history of the Southeast Conference with the approval of the Conference Board of Directors in preparation for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Conference in 2016. You can see some of his work about the Conference on Wikipedia.

Tim Downs is teaching a course entitled **UCC History and Polity** at Candler School of Theology this semester, with over 12 students enrolled. Many of the resources for the course are available on line, including lectures by General Minister and President, John Thomas, and the Ecumenical Officer of the UCC, Lydia Veliko. Contact him at tdowns@secucc.org if you are interested in looking at any of these resources.

As the Conference moves forward into 2009, **we have taken significant steps to reduce the budget of the Conference \$120,000 from 2008 to \$578,000**. There are no raises scheduled for 2009, the Conference has improved its IT capacities with a mind to reduce travel by staff, while increasing contact with local churches. Other proposed cuts to the budget will be brought to the Board of Directors for their approval at their upcoming meeting.

The Southeast Conference is continuing to explore ways to strengthen its partnership with **Lancaster Theological Seminary** with which it has collaborated around issues of formation for ministry, the TAP program, and global theological education. Look for signs of this partnership in the upcoming Annual Meeting!

Circle your calendars for a work camp organized by the Southeast Conference Disaster Assistance Relief Team, November 29–December 5, 2009. We need 40 people to go to Biloxi MS to assist Back Bay Mission with their continued work to rebuild lost homes from Hurricane Katrina. The cost to the volunteers will be \$100 for lodging and food for the week. Start to recruit groups from your church! For details contact Connie Waidmann at cbwaidphtn@frontiernet.net



Listen to the 2008 Podcasts with leaders making a difference in the UCC.

Theology Among the People



Check out our Lay Theology Program called "TAP", Theology Among the People. [Click here.](#)



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Comma Connections are launching in the SEC. [Click here](#) to learn more.



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or by calling (931) 277-5529.

Posted on January 20, 2009

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